Cancellation of AI flights to USA

2889. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India had to cancel its flights to United States of America because of the developments in that country by terrorist attacks on various establishments; and

(b) if so, the number of flights cancelled, for how many days and the loss suffered by the Airlines on this account?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Air India had cancelled 22 single flights and suffered loss of Rs. 8.50 crores on this account during the period of four days when the US airspace was closed after the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001.

Commercial utilization of vacant land at Airports

2890. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the large area of vacant land remain unutilized at various airports;

(b) if so, whether any assessment has been made about the vacant land and its proper use for commercial exploitation so as to earn some revenue out of it; and

(c) if so, the details of the vacant land adjoining various airports and the schemes finalised, if any, for the better and commercial utilization of this land?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A lot of vacant land is available at the airports, a larger part of which is required to be kept vacant to meet essential operational safety norms. Assessment of vacant land which can be utilized for commercial exploitation has been made for a number of airports which are as under:-

Mumbai — 1,91,123 sq.m; Juhu — 24,000 sq.m; IGI Airport — 4,97,760 sq.m; Kolkata — 14, 000 sq.m; Chennai — 48,000 sq.m;